



KANSAS

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

KATHLEEN SEBELIUS, GOVERNOR

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Risk reduction effort receives national support

Kansas Department of Corrections' Reentry Program receives \$4.67 million grant

Ensuring offenders don't commit new crimes after they re-enter society is the objective of the Kansas Department of Corrections' Reentry Program – a goal which will be furthered by a \$4.67 million national grant.

Governor Kathleen Sebelius today announced that the Kansas Department of Corrections has received a grant from the JEHT Foundation of New York for its offender reentry and risk reduction efforts.

"We all benefit when offenders avoid committing new crimes and are able to become productive, tax-paying members of society. Our efforts to protect the public safety by ensuring individuals don't re-offend will be strengthened by this national support," said Sebelius.

The JEHT Foundation is one of the largest private funders of criminal justice in the United States, and it has supported KDOC's reentry and risk reduction strategies since the 2003 start of the Shawnee County Reentry Program.

The foundation has previously awarded more than half a million dollars in grants to the department, and Secretary of Corrections Roger Werholtz says the support is key to the department's work to protect public safety.

"Offenders require legitimate support to succeed. They need to know how to maintain housing and jobs, and live harmoniously with their families. If we teach them how to do these things, we will be rewarded with safer communities," said Werholtz. "The JEHT Foundation's generous grant will provide the department and the state with the means to implement a reentry and risk reduction strategy that will become the hallmark for achieving public safety and help returning offenders rebuild their lives."

Kansas' efforts promote the foundation's goals of advancing equality, dignity and tolerance, JEHT Foundation President Robert Crane said. He said the climate is right in Kansas to reduce recidivism and improve public safety through reentry and risk reduction strategies.

"The Foundation requires the assurance of a high probability of success before investing its time, resources and energy in a project. The Foundation's staff has spent over a year assessing the work being undertaken in Kansas, and believes there's a great opportunity for success here. Now is the time and Kansas is the place for this thoughtfully designed reentry program. It will make Kansas a safer and better place to live for all citizens and serve as a beacon for others to follow," said Crane.

The JEHT Foundation is one of several national partners supporting reentry and risk reduction efforts in Kansas. Others include the Council of State Governments, the Pew Charitable Trusts, the National Institute of Corrections and Senator Sam Brownback, with his proposed Second Chance Act.

For more information about the JEHT Foundation of New York, please visit its website at:
<http://www.jehtfoundation.org>

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